

list of captures on Mersea Island in 1893, W. Cole wrote "One startling capture was a *Metrocampa margaritaria* (a May or June insect) on September 2nd, in good condition" (*Essex Naturalist* 7: 126). The second brood would still be startling in Essex. — A. M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3AF.

THE LARGE HEATH: COENONYMPHA TULLIA (MÜLL.) AS A VICTIM OF SUNDEW (DROSERA SPP.). — On 7th July 1983, whilst visiting a moss not far from Carlisle, Cumberland, I found an adult large heath butterfly (*Coenonympha tullia*) still alive but firmly stuck to a leaf of the insectivorous plant *Drosera anglica* (Great Sundew). During the course of the afternoon I came across several more *C. tullia* in a similar situation. In addition, one butterfly was found stuck to a leaf of the much smaller Common Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*). However, while I watched, it managed to free itself after a brief struggle. A large proportion of the free flying butterflies in this population showed some evidence of sundew contact in that they had dark patches on their wings where the scales had been stuck together. This apparent evidence of sundew contact is noticeable in many *C. tullia* localities, but nowhere else have I found the butterflies actually in contact with the plant. — T. M. MELLING, Brooklands, 206 Chorley New Road, Heaton, Bolton, Lancs BL1 5AA.

EXTRAORDINARY SURVIVAL ABILITIES OF LARVAE OF THE LARGE HEATH: COENONYMPHA TULLIA (MÜLL.). — I have been rearing the larvae of *Coenonympha tullia* in buckets containing growing cotton grass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*). In an attempt to simulate the natural boggy conditions in which this butterfly occurs I have been regulating the water level in the containers by hand. After a period of absence in early January 1984 I returned to find the foodplants completely submerged in frozen water. I waited until the ice had thawed and then poured the excess water away, never really expecting anything to have survived. When the first few warm days of spring arrived in early April I checked the containers and was rather surprised to find that a number of larvae had survived their winter ordeal.

The ability to survive complete immersion in water has been noted in other marsh dwelling larvae such as *Lycaena dispar* and *Euphydryas aurinia* (E. B. Ford, *Butterflies*, p.100). However, this is the first case known to me of a butterfly larva evidently able to withstand being frozen solid in water. — T. M. MELLING, Brooklands, 206 Chorley New Road, Heaton, Bolton, Lancs BL1 5AA.

